


DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



Newsletter March 2011

General Meeting

Thursday March 3, 2011

6:30 for networking and snacks, 7:00pm meeting start

Paul K. Chappell, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's
Peace Leadership Director

Orchid Building, UFCW Hall

816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

Exit at the Camarillo Springs Rd. exit from the 101

Tim Geithner is reported in July 2010 to have said, "This president understands deeply that governments don't create jobs, businesses create jobs."

If that's what the president said, he's wrong.

My guess is Tim Geithner knows better but was spinning the comment to satisfy some Republican Congressman; nevertheless if that is what the president believes, I'll repeat, he's wrong. Don't ever let Republicans try to pass this off on you as some put down of government's function. Think about it.

What is the size of the federal budget? Don't quote me but I think it's roughly \$13 trillion. My question to you is this: if the government doesn't create any jobs, what is that money spent on? The answer is simple: it's spent on jobs (or profits to people)! Don't believe me? Let me tell you an obvious fact that nobody seems to think about: ALL MONEY is ultimately spent on wages, even profit. Do you think for a minute when United Airlines buys a jumbo jet the airplane gets any of the money? Does the engine get any of the money? Do you think for a second a nickel washer they put on that plane gets a penny of the price of the plane? Do you think for a second that the contract that causes the airplane to be built gets a lousy penny? The answer to all those questions is a resounding NO! Every penny spent on that aircraft goes ultimately to either wages or to profits to people.

The team members that write the contract get paid for their skill in writing it. The designers of the engine

get paid for their designs. The folks that write the manuals to maintain the aircraft get paid for their efforts. The machinists that machine the parts for the engine get paid for their machining skills. The companies that supply the materials to build the parts to the airplane get paid for their materials, etc. You get the picture.

It's no different with the government; every penny of that \$13 trillion budget goes for somebody's wages. From the president's \$400,000 annual salary, to the wages paid to the lowest civilian kitchen help working as a contractor on some military base someplace. From secretary Geithner to somebody's secretary at some weather station in Maine, it all goes for wages and those are all jobs that probably wouldn't be there if the government didn't spend that money. That's one heck of a lot of jobs created by the government. When the government goes out and buys a washer for Air Force One, the price of that washer goes to the supplier who supplied it, to the trucker who delivered it, and to the mining company and the miner who dug the ore out of the earth to make the washer.

But that's not the half of it. Remember the people we just talked about? The engineers, the contract writers, the miner that dug the ore for the washer, what do they do with their wages? They buy all the things they need in life with their pay. They go out to restaurants, they buy clothes, they pay for their kids little league and soccer. And the people who's wages come from those jobs go out and do the same thing with their wages, and so it goes over and over throughout the economy. Without getting too technical, general economic theory says that every dollar spent by the government gets "multiplied" (or re-spent) in the economy about six times; that means that the \$13 trillion budget ends up resulting in roughly \$78 trillion of economic activity every year.

Now think about THAT for a minute: the budget proposed by the Republican controlled House of Representatives last week calls for \$61 billion in cuts

to the federal budget – and that's fine if that's what they want – they won the election in November – but have any of the conservative congressmen (and women) stopped to realize that those cuts are going to result in roughly \$366 billion in decreased economic activity in this nation? Three hundred sixty six billion dollars is a LOT of jobs (over 7.3 million jobs at \$50,000/year!). That's going to put a LOT of people out of work, what can they possibly be thinking?

I'll close with a couple of thoughts. The Republicans, as we well know, didn't worry about the deficits during the eight years of George Bush's administration – when they fought two wars without budgeting for either of them. They weren't worried about the deficit as they doubled the national debt during his administration. They weren't worried about the national debt when Reagan doubled it during his administration, so what is their problem? It couldn't have anything to do with the 2012 election could it? They wouldn't drive the economy over a cliff just to make their stated goal of making Obama a one term president a reality would they? Wouldn't they?

Hardy Hayes

Paul K. Chappell, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Peace Leadership Director. West Point graduate and Iraq veteran. Author of *Will War Ever End: A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century* and *The End of War: How Waging Peace Can Save Humanity, Our Planet and Our Future.*

Letters to the Editor

We continually encourage you to write letters to the Editor. Some get printed and some don't, but remember, those that don't are still read by someone. You never know whose mind you might change or at least give them food for thought, so please, keep those letters going and send them to me for printing here so others can also reap the benefit of your opinion. Enjoy!

The Tucson Excuse

LA Times 2-4-11 (published 2-8-11)

I have been out of work for 10 months. I have interviewed with many companies, applied to many companies, but still no job offer. In order for me to even be considered for an interview in some cases, I was required to take many tests, submit to drug screening (for both legal and illegal drugs), agree to background checks that include: criminal, past jobs, personal references, credit checks and

required to waive my rights to sue if any of the information came back in error. I used to make a salary in the high sixties. Now that same job is paying in the low forties, in less than a year. But I can walk into a gun shop, purchase a gun and as much ammo as I can carry out, with no questions asked. This makes no sense and the Democrats are correct in strengthening the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Your editorial lays out that 1.6 million mental health records have not been entered into the data base that could be checked. The shooter has a history of using illegal drugs. I have no such history, but am willing to comply to the testing to help me get a job. Why would anyone not want everyone who purchases a gun to submit to tests that would prove that they are qualified to own and operate a weapon?

Carolyn Crandall

Letter to VCStar (published 1-21-11)

The party of "no" has cast a historic "yes" vote to repeal the healthcare bill, fulfilling an extravagant promise, snatching away many hard fought reforms desperately needed by American families trying to survive in an economic environment where a serious illness can lead to bankruptcy, or worse. It is a tragic fact that illness is the number one cause of bankruptcy in America, unique among the industrialized countries of the world, all the rest of whom guarantee quality health care for their citizens.

A quick search of Wikipedia revealed that these members of Congress and their families, including our own Elton Gallegly, enjoy a generous and exclusive healthcare plan, 75% funded by tax dollars, that is probably in no danger of being repealed.

Added perks include a team of doctors, technicians and nurses standing by, ready to provide any medical service required. As yet another hypocritical example of "Socialism for the rich, Free Enterprise for everybody else," this just can't be matched. I think the voting public deserves an explanation for this contradiction from the party of "no."

Donald Wallace

Letter to the VCStar (published 2-6-11)

How you can help from afar: They did it. They actually did it. The yuppie college kids at AU Cairo, the cab drivers, the lawyers, the elites and the falaheen (poor farmers) sent a shockwave across the Middle East. They said we're tired of living without dignity and risking having our family members assaulted in the back of a police station because we sent out a bloody twitter joke about a politician.

Now is the time to empower the forces of civil society in Egypt that have been decimated and disillusioned for so many years. It's time to see the first modern Arab constitution of the 21st century; shaking off the vestiges of colonialism, Pan'isms, and extremist ideologies.

Egypt needs our help to move forward. Let us work together to do the following:

- Promote tourism to Egypt so that we can help Egypt help itself.
- Encourage American and European schools to videoconference with schoolchildren in Egypt.
- Tell your congress member and senators to support an effort by the United Nations to facilitate a broad based coalition of Egyptians to write a new constitution.
- Thank Google and Facebook and Twitter for helping Egyptians spread their message and support independent media organizations, including groups like Human Rights Watch so that we can always shine a light on abuse. In case you don't know Google and Facebook launched a service that allowed Egyptians with phone access to call a machine that turned their voice dictation into Twitter messages. We need more tools like this to keep us ever more connected.
- Tell your cable companies that they should carry Al-Jazeera English.
- Tell your Congress members and senators to support more scholarship and visa opportunities for young Egyptians to study in the U.S. and to support the lowering of trade barriers so that Egyptian companies can have easier access to international markets.

Omar Masry (Ferial's son)

Letter to the LA Times February 01, 2011

Rich guys have rights too

Re "Rich guys have rights too" - (February 1, 2011)

The far right rich Koch brother guys have far greater rights than all of the thousand of protesters in Rancho Mirage. \$21 billion each, (\$42 Billion) that can buy elections and laws without divulging names or money amounts, thanks to the Republican partisan, activist Supreme Court. How many Americans know the Koch's funded former Republican Leader, Dick Arney to organize the alleged Grassroots Tea Party? The irony of course is the far right has always claimed the left has activist judges, but after the Citizens United decision, brings us proof this Supreme Court is the most activist in making laws in a hundred years.

Jerry Drucker

Letter to the LA Times February 08, 2011

Who'll blink first on debt ceiling?

Coercion (ko-ur-shan) *n.* 1. To force to act in a given manner: to compel by pressure or threat. Coercion is the Republican game that they play against the people and the nation. Remember the GOP was elected to bring jobs back? Where are the jobs? The Republicans have not introduced one jobs bill. All they do is provide 'coercion.'

Jerry Drucker

Please Complete the Membership Survey

The Membership Outreach Committee is asking all Club members to complete the Membership Survey that is printed in this newsletter. It will help us update our records but most importantly it will give us information about how our members want to be involved in our Club activities. The committees and activities are listed on the survey. Those who wish to only attend meetings can express this on the survey. There is also an opportunity for you to make suggestions. Please help us reach our goal of receiving a completed survey from each of our members. Your survey can be mailed to Joan Adams, 830 Calle Los Gatos, Camarillo 93010, emailed to joanadams1@verizon.net or you may bring it to the next meeting.

Thank you to all those who have already completed a survey, you do not need to complete another one.

Rust: Ask voters before gutting public education

Bob Rust of Camarillo is a member of the Pleasant Valley School District board of trustees. Ventura County Star 2-12-11 (published)

Our California state budget has been shrinking in great, heaving spasms. K-12 education comprises almost 40 percent of that budget, yet has been hit with a far larger proportion of actual cuts. Other budget lines seem to wriggle away before proposed cuts are completed.

Public K-12 education is fundamental to our society. It's an implicit pay-it-forward agreement made with each generation. We adults got to go to public schools; our children and then their children will get the same opportunity. The reward is an educated public, a necessary piece in our participatory democracy. Everybody wins.

This wonderful, time-tested paradigm is being put at risk now because of drastic cuts already imposed on schools, and there are more, even bigger cutbacks pending.

There can be no more pretending that education is going to be fine. It's to the credit of professional K-12 employees that so much of the public is unaware of the past few years' severe reductions: schools have done a superhuman job of taking the pay cuts, taking the program cuts, taking the staffing cuts, and persevering.

But the next round of blows will almost surely cause some really noticeable, nasty changes — grossly larger class sizes, fewer choices, shorter school years — in short, not the best education we are capable of offering.

Gov. Jerry Brown is finally showing the ugliness of what our budget really is instead of pushing debts into next year, borrowing from mythical funds and papering over gaping holes — and it is, indeed, ugly.

He wants people to digest this "real" budget, and then he would ask the voters in June to extend some temporary taxes to stem the worst of the new cuts to education.

I'm asking you to ask your state legislators to let this vote happen. We should all have input into how to handle our money, and input into what kind of public education we want to offer. Technology and the rest of the world aren't going to wait for us while we squabble about vehicle registration fees or how much a fishing license costs.

We held our first 2011 **Letter Writing Class** on Thursday, February 17th. The attendees were Jerry Drucker (writer extraordinaire), Sue Bolorochi, Lolita Valianos, Olivia Dalseme and Carolyn Crandall. We discussed how a letter gets published, timing of the subject matter and how humor is attractive to the editor. Our goal for the next meeting is to craft some letters and send them off to the editors. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us by contacting Carolyn Crandall at 805-484-0173 or by email at softails.togo@verizon.net. We will be choosing a date shortly that will fit into everyone's schedules.

Part IV of Letters Home from Vietnam by Steve Crandall

Letters Home from Vietnam – Chapter 4, Rocket City Here I Come

What do chickens, goats and a Caribou have in common? The chickens and goats were my traveling companions and Caribou was our ride to Danang. I was told I had five days to report to Danang and how to get there was up to me. So I hopped a flight out of Cam Ranh Bay on a C-7 Caribou along with one other airman, a few chickens, goats and some Vietnamese farmers. The other airman and I were instructed on how to crank down the landing gear in case there was a hydraulic failure. We each sat in web seats near the landing gears on opposite sides of the plane. We would make just one stop at Chi Lai, a Marine base 56 miles south of Danang.

March 26, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well I'm here in Danang. The water supply here only lasts for a about a day or two then we go without water for two or three days. When we do get it, it smells like sewage and there is no hot water.

I was familiar with guns growing up as a child in Iowa. We lived near a river and I spent many of my summer days toting either a rifle or shotgun and looking for something to shoot. So I was familiar with guns and what they could do but the M-16 I was issued when I arrived at Danang took on a whole other meaning. This weapon was not created for pheasant or rabbit hunting, it was created for killing human beings. It had an eerie feeling in my hands. Was I really going to have to use this rifle to kill another human being or could I find a way to avoid never having to touch it again?

March 29, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Up here we were issued M-16 rifles. We keep them locked up but we can get them whenever we want. They only issued one ten round clip of ammo but I was able to get another backup clip from one of the Marines in the barracks next to us.

Depending on your condition, being in the hospital is not a bad thing. Also the sandbags are stacked a little higher around the hospital so it feels a little safer too.

April 6, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here I am in the hospital with pneumonia. Wait until I get back to work and let the guys know about this place. They will all want to get sick just to stay here. Breakfast in bed and clean sheets and all the orange juice you can drink. This is the life! We've been hit with rockets every night since the first of April. We were supposed to be hit pretty hard on Saturday or Sunday but they just landed a few around the base. That makes seven times in five days that we have been hit.

While in the hospital I spent some time watching movies with the grunts that were wounded and going home. One of the grunts I met was hospitalized for malaria. He was not heading home but rather back to the jungle. His plan was to throw away his malaria pills in hopes of getting malaria again so that he would be shipped back to the states. After seeing all the wounded I couldn't blame him.

We didn't talk much about what was going on outside the hospital and the news we did get was limited. I didn't learn until I got out that the guys that were injured had been killed. One had only been in Vietnam a few days the other was getting ready to go home. I remember chatting about it and then dismissing it as bad luck. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time was not a phrase we used in Vietnam because we were all in the wrong place.

April 8, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm still here in the hospital. The doctor said I can leave in a couple more days. We were hit last night and I heard a couple of guys were hurt. I don't know how bad it was since I was here in the hospital.

I remember feeling really nervous the first few days after being released from the hospital. It was almost like the feeling when I first stepped off the plane at Cam Ranh Bay. I had to find a way to shake this feeling. Maybe a stop off at the Airman's Club for a few beers would make it better. I was sitting there having a beer when I heard someone call out my

name. I couldn't believe it, it was a classmate from high school. He had been drafted into the Army and was killing time before boarding the Freedom Bird to head back to the World. God, how I envied him going home and wished I could get on the plane with him. But I still had a little over nine months left to go and couldn't start thinking about going home yet. A few days after getting back to work loading weapons my nervousness had disappeared and I thought everything was right again. But something was bothering me and I wasn't quite sure what it was.

April 10, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm finally out of the hospital. We haven't been hit for the last two nights. I guess the VC used up all there quota for the month. Sorry I haven't written much but our work is heavy and I'm having a problem concentrating when I'm off.

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies.

Moshe Dayan (1915 – 1981)

Our Military Spending and Spiritual Death. The annual military budget, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is about \$725 billion, \$3 billion per week. Including the related costs of veterans benefits, other security-related spending, nuclear weapons spending, intelligence spending; the total exceeds \$1 trillion per year.

Yet all that was mentioned in the State of the Union about that was, "The Secretary of Defense has also agreed to cut tens of billions of dollars in spending that he and his generals believe our military can do without." No specific cuts, not even a commitment to a freeze.

More than 40 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. warned us that, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." With the trajectory we're on, we will be more than just approaching spiritual death in 2015 — we'll be almost there. And proposals to cut government spending that do not include significant cuts in military spending are contributing to that death.

Duane Shank is senior policy advisor at Sojourners.

From Mother Jones, Suzy Khimm 2-1-11

House GOPer Links Illegal Immigration to Animal Snuff Films

Ask the California Republican chairing the House immigration committee.

When the House GOP passed over Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) for the chairmanship of a key immigration panel, the conventional wisdom was that Republican leaders were wary of elevating a bombthrower whose headline-grabbing remarks [1] about illegal immigrants might stoke the base but alienate moderates and Latinos. The job on the House Judiciary's immigration subcommittee went instead [2] to Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), a 13-term, by-the-book conservative without much of a national profile. But if House Speaker John Boehner and his deputies had concerns about extreme rhetoric, they should have perhaps take a closer look at Gallegly's past remarks—including eyebrow-raising statements linking illegal immigration to heinous crimes against animals.

Like King, Gallegly is an ardent immigration hawk who wants to take away birthright citizenship and backs an across-the-board crackdown on illegal immigration. But his other pet issue is animal cruelty. For years, he has campaigned [3] against so-called "animal-crush" fetish videos, "where small—and sometimes large—animals were crushed to death under the stiletto heels or bare feet of scantily clad women for the sexual excitement of the viewer," as Gallegly himself once described it.

During the last Congress, Gallegly's biggest achievement was the passage of an animal-cruelty bill [4] that outlawed videos that depict the "drowning, impaling, burning and crushing of animals." He also used the opportunity to combine his two biggest crusades, arguing that those who commit despicable violence against animals are also likely to be linked to illegal immigration.

In a July 2009 op-ed [3] for *The Hill*, Gallegly argued for the passage of his animal-crush bill, noting that such snuff films are somehow connected to illegal immigration and crime: "[G]ang activity, illegal gambling, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and acts of human violence all go hand in hand with animal cruelty." (The piece had been posted on Gallegly's official congressional website, but it has since been taken down [5].)

In the op-ed, Gallegly echoed the conservative criticism that illegal immigrants bring with them a bigger world of crime, and he points out that an

Arizona crime syndicate that "preyed on illegal immigrants, subjecting them to kidnappings, home invasions, and armed robberies" is also being accused of "raising roosters for illegal cockfighting matches." While linking illegal immigration and animal-crush videos, Gallegly also maintained that animal abusers tend to become serial killers. The Son of Sam, the Boston Strangler, and the Unabomber all had a history of torturing animals, he writes, and Jeffrey Dahmer "progressed from cutting up animals to cutting up humans and eating them." Gallegly was lumping together illegal immigration, animal murders, and the worst serial killers of modern times.

Pro-immigration advocates accuse Gallegly of trying to hype up the criminality of illegal immigration by linking their world to animal abuse and other heinous acts. And it isn't the first time that Gallegly has made the illegal immigrant-animal cruelty connection. In February 2008, he decried the "widespread mistreatment of 'downed' dairy cows—those who are too sick or injured to walk" at a meat-packing plant in his own district. He slammed such facilities for not only disregarding federal food safety laws, but also committing other illegal acts as well—namely hiring illegal immigrants. "I've always said animal abuse is often accompanied by other crimes...Meat packing plants are notorious for employing illegal work forces," Gallegly wrote in his 2008 press release [6]. "In the past few years, federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have raided dozens of meat packing plants across the country. In the course of these raids, they have discovered numerous crimes: identity theft, drugs and, of course, illegal workers." He's suggesting that if someone cares about protecting abused animals, he or she should also be concerned about stamping out illegal immigration. (Gallegly's office did not respond to multiple requests for comment.)

Liberal supporters of immigrants don't deny that the country's illegal immigrants continue to work and live in the shadows, often exposing them to crimes and exploitation. But Gallegly has made it clear that he wants to crack down on illegal immigrants rather than provide a legal pathway for them. And he's tried to rally opponents of animal cruelty to his cause. In his first hearing as subcommittee chairman last week, Gallegly blasted [7] the Obama administration for failing to target illegal immigrants at the workplace and ensuring that "those jobs that are available go to Americans and legal immigrants." Judging by his past remarks, it may not be long before he accuses the workplaces that harbor illegal immigrants of abusing animals, as well.

Links:

- [1] <http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/11/steve-king-immigration-committee>
- [2] <http://thehill.com/homenews/house/136639-immigration-foe-passed-over-as-top-republican-on-judiciary-subpanel>
- [3] <http://thehill.com/special-reports/animal-welfare-july-2009/55631-animal-welfare-cruelty-barbaric-in-itself-and-tied-to-other-offenses>
- [4] http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2010/12/crush_bill_signed_120910.html
- [5] <http://www.house.gov/gallegly/media/media2009/col072809animals.htm>
- [6] http://www.votesmart.org/speech_detail.php?sc_id=352152&keyword=&phrase=&contain=
- [7] <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/jan/26/gallegly-says-administration-not-tough-enough-on/>

America was indebted to immigration for her settlement and prosperity. That part of America which had encouraged them most had advanced most rapidly in population, agriculture and the arts.

James Madison

Friendly Reminder

A lot of you have already paid your dues for 2011...thank you! In case you haven't this is a reminder that dues are due at this time. You can mail in the form on the back of this newsletter or pay at the March 3rd meeting. Prices remain the same.

From the Social Corner March 2011

We continue to celebrate the Camarillo Democrats and Presidents born in the month of March with plenty of Shamrocks and Leprechauns. (Hope green is one of your favorite colors)

A bit of Irish Wisdom from the internet in this political climate:

Irish Diplomacy....is the ability to tell a man to go to hell so that he looks forward to making the trip.

Irish Math....Five frogs are sitting on a log. Four decided to jump off. How many are left? (Answer: 5) Why? Because there's a difference between deciding and doing.

A Wish for a Friend...

Wishing you a rainbow
For sunlight after showers---
Miles and miles of Irish smiles
For golden happy hours---
Shamrocks at your doorway
For luck and laughter to,
And a host of friends that never ends
Each day your whole life through!

Top 10 Shocking Attacks from the GOP War on Women

- 1) Republicans not only want to reduce women's access to abortion care, they're actually trying to redefine rape. After a major backlash, they promised to stop. But they haven't.
- 2) A state legislator in Georgia wants to change the legal term for victims of rape, stalking, and domestic violence to "accuser." But victims of other less gendered crimes, like burglary, would remain "victims."
- 3) In South Dakota, Republicans proposed a bill that could make it legal to murder a doctor who provides abortion care. (Yep, for real.)
- 4) Republicans want to cut nearly a billion dollars of food and other aid to low-income pregnant women, mothers, babies, and kids.
- 5) In Congress, Republicans have proposed a bill that would let hospitals allow a woman to die rather than perform an abortion necessary to save her life.
- 6) Maryland Republicans ended all county money for a low-income kids' preschool program. Why? No need, they said. Women should really be home with the kids, not out working.
- 7) And at the federal level, Republicans want to cut that same program, Head Start, by \$1 billion. That means over 200,000 kids could lose their spots in preschool.
- 8) Two-thirds of the elderly poor are women, and Republicans are taking aim at them too. A spending bill would cut funding for employment services, meals, and housing for senior citizens.

9) Congress voted yesterday on a Republican amendment to cut all federal funding from Planned Parenthood health centers, one of the most trusted providers of basic health care and family planning in our country.

10) And if that wasn't enough, Republicans are pushing to eliminate all funds for the only federal family planning program. (For humans. But Republican Dan Burton has a bill to provide contraception for wild horses. You can't make this stuff up).

Here is something to chew on:

How do the conservatives keep government small and monitor every pregnancy in America to ensure it reaches full term and delivery?

Dan Boren [D-OK2:]
Jerry Costello [D-IL12]
Mark Critz [D-PA12]
Joe Donnelly [D-IN2]
Daniel Lipinski [D-IL3]
Collin Peterson [D-MN7]
Nick Rahall [D-WV3]
Mike Ross [D-AR4]
Heath Shuler [D-NC11]

These are the Democrats who co-sponsored HR3. The DCCC has a \$3.3 million investment in those Democrats. The worst attack on the right to choose in recent history, the bill that brought us a legal codification of "rape-rape," the bill that will result in more poverty, more abuse, less freedom, and a huge and terrifying attack focused on making abortion impossible for the most vulnerable women and trans men in society, and Democrats are backing it.

You want to know why we keep losing our battles, on the front for legal and accessible abortion? Those names. Those men. Those Democrats, and the people who think like them, and the people who don't call them out. That's why.

Let us be extremely, excruciatingly clear on this: People's lives, bodies, and health are *not acceptable subjects for "bipartisan compromise."* We depend on the Democrats to have our backs on this; we depend on them to get it, to know that this bill will harm or kill people in need of abortion. We depend on them to notice stuff like the "forcible rape" clause — oh, yay, they took that out! Now let's focus on what kind of callous Neanderthal you have to be to include it in the first place, and how that attitude is evident on every single page of this bill — and to object to it

before we have to spend a week protesting it. We depend on them to know the difference between right and wrong, and to represent the interests of their constituents — constituents who are or may be survivors, constituents who need or may need abortions — instead of sacrificing them to an extremist, discriminatory, bigoted anti-choice agenda when it serves their purposes to do so.

Courtesy of Tiger Beatdown

This is part 1 for March, 2011. Part 2 will appear in the April issue.

What Conservatives Really Want

2-19-11 by: George Lakoff, Truthout.org

Dedicated to the peaceful protestors in Wisconsin, February 19, 2011.

The central issue in our political life is not being discussed. At stake is the moral basis of American democracy.

The individual issues are all too real: assaults on unions, public employees, women's rights, immigrants, the environment, health care, voting rights, food safety, pensions, prenatal care, science, public broadcasting and on and on.

Budget deficits are a ruse, as we've seen in Wisconsin, where the Governor turned a surplus into a deficit by providing corporate tax breaks, and then used the deficit as a ploy to break the unions, not just in Wisconsin, but seeking to be the first domino in a nationwide conservative movement. Deficits can be addressed by raising revenue, plugging tax loopholes, putting people to work and developing the economy long-term in all the ways the president has discussed. But deficits are not what really matter to conservatives. Conservatives really want to change the basis of American life, to make America run according to the conservative moral worldview in all areas of life.

In the 2008 campaign, candidate Obama accurately described the basis of American democracy: empathy — citizens caring for each other, both social and personal responsibility — acting on that care, and an ethic of excellence. From these, our freedoms and our way of life follow, as does the role of government: to protect and empower everyone equally. Protection includes safety, health, the environment, pensions. Empowerment starts with education and infrastructure. No one can be free without these, and without a commitment to care and act on that care by one's fellow citizens.

The conservative worldview rejects all of that.

Conservatives believe in individual responsibility alone, not social responsibility. They don't think government should help its citizens. That is, they don't think citizens should help each other. The part of government they want to cut is not the military (we have 174 bases around the world), not government subsidies to corporations, not the aspect of government that fits their worldview. They want to cut the part that helps people. Why? Because that violates individual responsibility.

But where does that view of individual responsibility alone come from?

The way to understand the conservative moral system is to consider a strict father family. The father is The Decider, the ultimate moral authority in the family. His authority must not be challenged. His job is to protect the family, to support the family (by winning competitions in the marketplace), and to teach his kids right from wrong by disciplining them physically when they do wrong. The use of force is necessary and required. Only then will children develop the internal discipline to become moral beings. And only with such discipline will they be able to prosper. And what of people who are not prosperous? They don't have discipline, and without discipline they cannot be moral, so they deserve their poverty. The good people are hence the prosperous people. Helping others takes away their discipline, and hence makes them both unable to prosper on their own and function morally.

The Hypocrisy of Being Ernest

2-20-11 Tom Hall, LA Progressive

This is an excerpt from a much longer article

Look at what the Republicans have promised and then delivered on since the Tea Bag "revolution" last November:

- Promised: Fiscal discipline and budget tightening. Delivered: Massive subsidies to Billionaires.
- Promised: Family Values. Delivered: Legislation to redefine "rape" to eliminate incest and statutory rape from the crime. Too many conservative Christians were upset that only Catholic priests got to diddle children. So John Boehner is pushing changes that will let any father get drunk

and force himself on his daughters. Hey, it worked for Lot, didn't it? And even Moses was the child of incest. If it was good enough for Moses, it should be good enough for America.

- Promised: Stricter adherence to the Constitution. Delivered: Tea Bag Senator Rand Paul has started a campaign to honor the 1st Amendment by placing further restrictions on the rights of workers to organize and speak out against corporate crimes.
- Promised: Consistency and protection of life. Delivered: Legislation to give citizenship to every fetus. Then, on February 9, the announcement of plans to cut infant and child nutrition and health care funding. Citizenship, yes. Basic survival as a citizen, NO.

The announcement about cutting nutrition and healthcare for children was part of a larger budget plan. While gutting safety net spending, Republican leadership announced that they want more war spending – more welfare to the corporations that provide soldiers with body armor that won't stop bullets – more high tech gadgets that soak up contract dollars but don't actually sail or fly or fight.

When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty.

George Bernard Shaw



ROSSER, Tom & Ann

Tom Rosser Memorial Service
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
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